



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**  
*A Healthcare Service Agency*

NED LAMONT  
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.  
COMMISSIONER

**Legislative Update # 13**

**June 2, 2021**

Bills are being acted on in both chambers of the legislature and then forwarded to the Governor for signature. **Senate Bill 1** An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic is one such bill that may be of interest. Changes in this bill impacting the behavioral health community include:

- Declares racism to be a public health crisis in Connecticut and establishes a Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health to document and make recommendations to decrease the effect of racism on public health
- Requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to study and report on developing a program to recruit and retain health care workers of color in the state
- Requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to assess racial equity within its environmental health quality programs
- Requires the Office of Higher Education to evaluate on the recruitment and retention of people of color in health care preparation programs and the inclusion of cultural humility in these programs
- Establishes a committee to advise on establishing a Commission on Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention to coordinate funding and implementation of programs and strategies to reduce gun violence
- Requires DPH to study and report on the state's COVID-19 response
- Sets requirements for collecting demographic data related to health care or public health; requires certain providers to include self-reported patient demographic data in their electronic health record systems; requires the Office of Health Strategy to create a plan to implement the provisions and review demographic changes and health data and reevaluate the standard race and ethnicity categories
- Requires DPH's Maternal Mortality Review Committee to report disaggregated data on investigations and including recommendations to reduce or eliminate racial inequities and other public health concerns
- Requires hospitals to include implicit bias training in their regular training to staff members who care for women who are pregnant or postpartum
- Requires DPH to establish a scope of practice review committee and report findings on whether DPH should establish a doula certification process
- Establishes a working group to develop recommendations for the expansion of school-based health center services
- Requires DMHAS to make mobile crisis services available on nights and weekends, within available appropriations, and develop/report on a plan to make these services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

To review all changes to statutes made by SB 1 please review the adopted language at the link provided above. As always, I can be reached at [mary.mason@ct.gov](mailto:mary.mason@ct.gov).

(AC 860) 418-7000

410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431, Hartford, Connecticut 06134

<https://portal.ct.gov/dmhas>

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